

KHANUKAH MENOROTH

The European Jewish custom is to place the lit Menorah in the window. The above Menoroth for Khanukah is of elaborate design. The one at the left was created in Poland during the last century and follows a pattern as described in the bible for the Temple Menorah. The one at the right is an Oriental (Asiatic) Menorah which uses oil and wicks. These two Menorahs and dozens of others may be seen at the Jewish Museum in New York, 5th Ave. at 92nd St. (Foto Frank Darmstaedter).

#### KHANUKAH — Festival of Lights. Kislev 25

"Khanukah" means "Rededication", and the festival commemorates the rededication of the Temple after it was profaned by the Greco-Syrians. Antiochus Epiphanes (175-166 BCE) oppressed and persecuted the Jews severely. He declared himself "God" and had his statue placed upon the altar of the Temple, demanding worship, while the Holy of Holies was desecrated with swine blood.

An aged man, Mattathias the Hasmonean, a priest from the town of Modin, with his sons, Johanan Gadi, Simon Tharsi, Eleazar Harvan, Johathan Aphus and Judah Maccabi, staged a revolt, which, with an additional handful of ill-armed zealots, through clever stratagem and divine providence, succeeded in slaughtering and routing well-trained, well-armed and numerous hosts of the Syraic Hellenes on Kislev 3. On the 25th, 165 BCE, amid great rejoicing, the Temple was rededicated.

When the Menorah (candelabra) was to have been lighted, it was found that only a small amount of oil, barely enough for one night, was available. But then, so legend has it, another miracle took place — that small amount of oil burned for eight days! By that time more oil became available.

Originally lights were burned over the doors in front of homes. Now, candles are lit, starting with one and adding an additional candle each day, until eight are lit, hence the name "Festival of Lights." The candle ritual of Khanukah inspired, no doubt the Christmas candles, for both holidays fall about the same time. An additional tradition has it that the name Khanukah means "Khanu — They Camped, K'H — on the 25th."

The festivities include the ritual of candle lighting, eating of sizzling hot potato pancakes (latkes), playing

## KHANUKAH



By V. F. Beliajus

(This Year Khanukah Falls on Dec. 1-8)

of "dreidls", presents for the children, songs and dances.

In Isreal, a torch is relayed via running youths from Modin to Tel Aviv, where a huge Menorah is ceremoniously lighted.



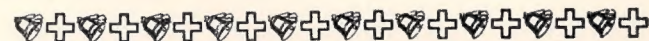
#### THE DREIDL

The favorite game played children during Khanukah is the "Dreidl", which is Yiddish for the "Spinner" (Hebrew-Svivan). It is a small "top", pointed at the bottom, with a handle at the top by which it is spun into motion by rolling it between thumb and index finger. The top is (mostly) quadrangular in shape with Hebrew letters engraved on each face. These tops are usually wooden or zinc. The zinc ones are molded and are winged. As the top falls to rest it indicates a result of the game, as explained below. Each player gets one chance to spin.

The letters carved on the Dreidl are: the Nun (N), Gimel (G), Hey (H) and Shin (SH). These letters are initials for the Hebrew words: Nes (A miracle) Gadol (great) Hayah (took place) Sham (over there), referring to the one day's supply of oil which lasted for eight days.

As the Dreidl falls to rest, exposing the top letter, the following (in Yiddish) gives an explanation of the results for each player:

- (Nun) — Nit (Nothing. No take.)
- (Gimel) — Gants (Everything. Take entire pot.)
- (Hey) — Halb (Half. Take half the pot.)
- (Shin) — Shtell (Place. Player antes a predecided amount.)

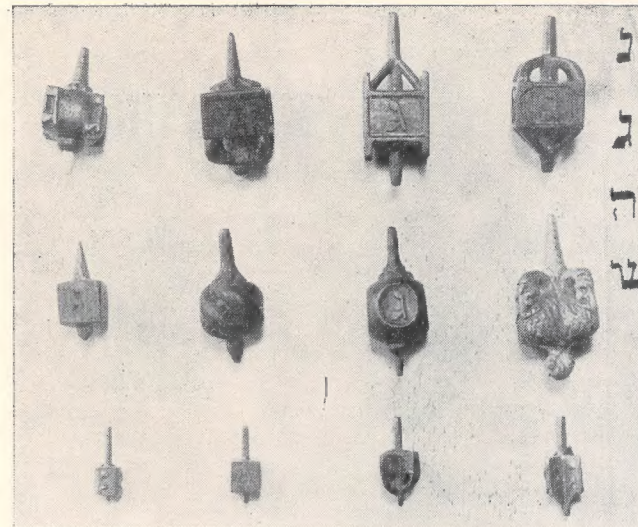


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#### DREIDLS

18th and 19th century Dreidls from Poland. The top two lines are carved in wood. The bottom line is molded in zinc. All show the Gimel (G). On the right side are the Hebrew letters Nun, Gimel, Hey, and Shin. (Foto Frank Darmstaedter, Jewish Museum, N. Y.)



#### KHANUKAH SONGS

Among Christians Christmas alone inspired the creation of Carols, but among the Jews every holiday has its wealth of holiday song. No holiday is too small or sad (as Tisha' B'Av) to lack the "Carol" type of song. The songs are to be found in any Judaic language (Yiddish, Hebrew, Ladino, etc) as well as English. We follow up with two popular Khanukah songs of which there are a great number.

#### MA'OZ TSUR (ROCK OF AGES)

Rock of Ages, let our song  
Praise Thy saving Power.  
Thou amidst the raging foes  
Wast our shelt'ring tower.  
Furious they assailed us  
But Thine arm availed us.  
And Thy word broke their sword  
When our own strength failed us.  
Children of the martyr-race,  
Whether free or fettered,  
Wake the echoes of the songs  
Where ye may be scattered.  
Yours the message cheering,  
That the time is nearing,  
Which will see all men free,  
Tyrants disappearing.

#### MI YEMALEL (WHO CAN RETELL)

Who can retell the things that befell us,  
Who can count them?  
In ev'ry age, a hero or sage  
Came to our aid!  
Ah, at this time of year in days of yore,  
Maccabees the Temple did restore.  
And today our people, as we dreamed,  
Through their faith and courage is redeemed!

I'm very grateful to Hy Reznick, director of the Halevy Choral Society and of the Music Dept. of the College of Jewish Studies for supplying me with the song selections. Hy is at all times most cooperative. Toda Rabah.  
Vyts

#### KHANUKAH AT JCRS



The above pictures shows Cantor Mayer Kohn of Denver lighting the first candle at the hospital dining room in the Texas building. The Mile-Hi folk dancers, a Gentile Denver group, came out to perform Israeli dances. Two of their dancers are seen above. Folk dancers practice the spirit of good will toward all at all times of the year. To the patients of JCRS we extend a "Refu'ah Shlomah—Complete Recovery". To all the associates and Auxiliaries we wish them a Happy Khanukah. (Foto by Adam Carvell).

Marian & Bob Neale, Mile-Hi Dancers are pictured above.

#### TSEDAKAH TATSIL MIMAVETH

(Charitability Saves From Death)

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Mr. Israel Friedman

JCRS

Spivak, Colorado

"...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."  
Jesus in Matthew 25:40.

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